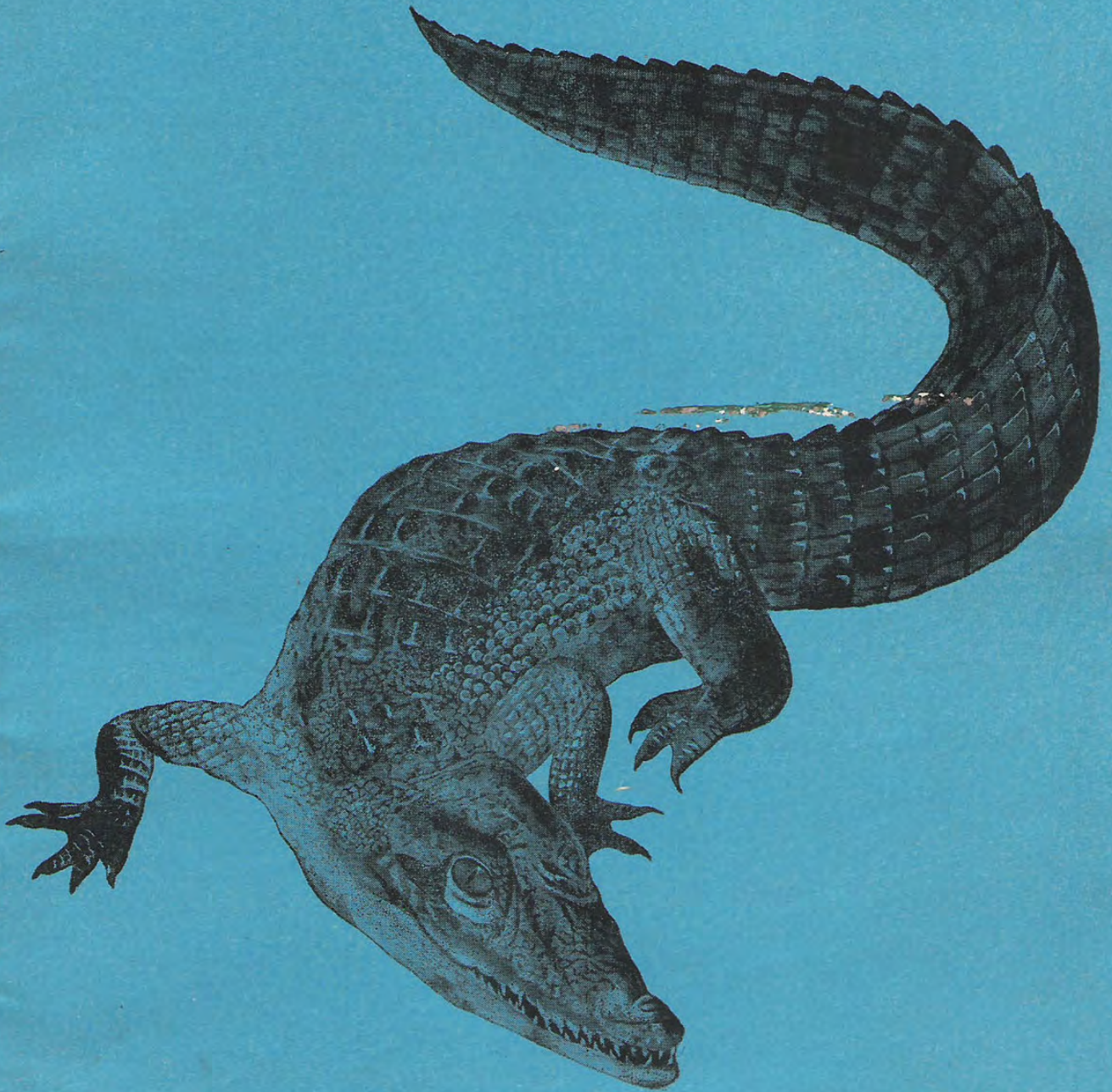




# COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

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## BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY

AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CHARITABLE TRUST

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### Crocodile

*Illustration : Vijay Bendre*



# EDITORIAL

The 11th National Conference on Animal Welfare held in Delhi in November 1977 assumed considerable importance and gained leverage due to the inspiring presence of Mr. Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of India, who inaugurated it. Lady Dowding, Founder-Chairman of BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY International and Mrs. Rukmini Devi Arundale, Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board, who steered the Conference on the road to fulfilment, blazed the trail for future course of action. Both these ladies have, in the long years of social service, espoused the cause of animals against ill-treatment suffered by them at the hands of those prowling for quick lucre out of agony and suffering. One of the positive results of the Conference was that our Prime Minister spontaneously backed the plea that the export of monkeys from India be banned. This benign arrangement postulates that no further contracts will be made for the export of monkeys and birds, as also for frogs' legs. The peremptory decision thus reached on the spot is particularly heartening in the setting of a maze of Government regulations, a charitable or social service organisation has to go through before its project can see the light of day. The ethical aspect of this move will be appreciated only when one realizes how flagrantly the norms of decent behaviour inspiring love of all living beings are jettisoned by heartless people seeking self-aggrandisement.

Treading on the heels of Animal Welfare Conference came the XXIV World Vegetarian Congress convened in Delhi. Deep impressions in life, for good or bad, are created by what we read and what we see. The film, "What Price Beauty?" which was exhibited by B.W.C. at the Conference and the Congress has been an eye-opener for those who enjoy beauty products such as furs, wallets, perfumes, soaps, etc., without having the least idea that these products are the outcome of many an innocent animal tortured to death.

It is indeed gratifying that Miss Diana Ratnagar, the Chairman of B.W.C. (India) met our Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai at his residence on 14th November 1977 and gave him a resume of our activities. Mr. Desai was deeply interested hearing of our efforts to preserve beauty from the inroads of cruelty. This will promote our public relations, which are an essential ingredient in spreading the message of B.W.C. among larger sections of society.

**S. M. Masani**

(This issue is kindly sponsored by M/s. RELIANCE COMMERCIAL CORPORATION)



## FROM MY DESK ...

We greet 1978, World Animal Rights Year with high hopes that the rights of animals will be recognised by all countries. This Declaration will lend support to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by adding a new humanistic dimension to it.

We have been very happy to have Lady Dowding, the Founder-Chairman of our world-wide charitable trust, BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY, visit our country recently. Thanks to her noble efforts we have received an assurance from the Prime Minister of India that the export of Monkeys, Birds and Frogs' legs will be banned.

Lady Dowding brought BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY into the limelight during the IIIrd National Conference on Animal Welfare at Delhi. Our movement also received publicity at the Delhi and Bombay Sessions of the XXIVth World Vegetarian Congress due to the moral and ethical aspects of vegetarianism stressed by us.

During the latter part of last year more people became aware of our existence. BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY is no longer recognised as just another animal welfare society, but as a way of life. A way of life that does not harm helpless creatures. With this aim in view B.W.C. investigates cruelty and exploitation and lets its growing membership know where they lie and the humane alternatives that can be adopted.

"Compassionate Friend" has helped us to do this. And, with this issue we start the second year of our publication. We hope to receive more articles, information and suggestions for improvement during the year.

We look forward to 1978 bringing a ban on other exports. We want your support in fighting animal suffering and death - the setting up of mink, karakul-lamb and crocodile farms in our country. Is India, the land of Ahinsa, justified in exploiting these animals for the sake of foreign exchange or even vanity?

**Diana Ratnagar**  
*Chairman*



## OUR GET-TOGETHER IN NEW DELHI

Lady Dowding, Founder-Chairman of BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY International, paid a flying visit to India specially to attend the IIIrd National Conference on Animal Welfare held in Delhi in November '77. In honour of Lady Dowding, B.W.C. India Branch, held a Get-together of members and their friends at Hotel Ranjit in Delhi on 15th November.

The function commenced with a welcome by Miss Diana Ratnagar, Chairman B.W.C. India. Mrs. Rukmini Devi Arundale, Vice-President of B.W.C. International, then introduced Lady Dowding.

Lady Dowding began by talking on furs. There was no such thing as a humane fur. The animals were caught in a diabolical way by means of gin traps, or, as in the case of mink and fox, they were farmed solely for their furs, which was a very paying business. These creatures of the wild, forever trying to escape from their small cages, lived a life of complete frustration, as was evident from the way they bit their own paws. When they were in their prime, they were put in small boxes and neat chloroform was poured on them....And where was the need for such cruelty when beautiful, simulated furs were available and cost far less? Lady Dowding displayed two exquisitely made furs which aptly carried the label: "Make no mistake. My fur is a fake." Their feel, look and warmth were so natural, it was difficult to believe they were man-made. Apart from providing alternatives, B.W.C. England, on an average gave 7 to 9 lectures a week to political groups and women's institutes. This had definitely taken the snob-value out of the furs - thoughtful people were no longer using them. It was encouraging that one of the largest furriers in London, which had 76 branches, had closed down very recently, and the branches would also be closing.

Lady Dowding elaborated on cosmetic testing of shampoos, etc. on rabbits' eyes which often resulted in blindness, and B.W.C.'s efforts to provide cosmetics which had not been tested on animals.

Lady Dowding disclosed that she had met our Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, and had requested him to ban the export of monkeys, not because the monkey was more important than a mouse, or any other animal, but because she had visited a laboratory in U.S.A. with a dreary experience. She said it had been a night-mare for her, but refrained from giving details, as it was "too ghastly to repeat."



Mr. Jon Evans, Technical Adviser to B.W.C., who had accompanied Lady Dowding from England, said that B.W.C. products could be safely used, as cosmetic manufacturers guaranteed that they were free of animal ingredients. Regular checks were made with suppliers to ensure this. B.W.C. did accept one animal commodity - lanolin. This, Mr. Evans explained was because lanolin was freely *given* by the sheep - not *taken* as such, by man.

Miss Diana Ratnagar thanked Lady Dowding, Mrs. Rukmini Devi Arundale, Mr. Jon Evans and all those present for having attended and helped to make the evening a success.

Members will be interested to know that Miss Nalini Mehta, Executive Committee Member of B.W.C. has been doing research in silk for the past two and a half years. The object was to manufacture a man-made fabric which would not entail the killing of millions of moths ( necessary for the production of silk ). The first piece of polyester silky brocade produced - the only Ahimsak silk in India - was presented to Lady Dowding by B.W.C. India on this occasion. It was greatly admired and Miss Mehta was commended by everyone.

The function ended with the screening of "What Price Beauty?", a 20 minute colour film made by B.W.C. Headquarters. In shocked and spell-bound silence the audience witnessed unimaginable cruelties inflicted on innocent animals in various parts of the world - all for commercial gain.

Amongst other things the film showed 1) whales - those magnificent highly intelligent mammals - being killed by harpoons, hacked into bits, later to be converted into soaps, creams, etc. 2) The trapping of the loveable musk deer in Nepal for their musk-pod - used for perfume and other toilet preparations. 3) The killing and skinning of the day-old Karakul lambs in Afghanistan was one of the most moving shots shown. 4) And all hearts went out in sympathy to the civet cats in Ethiopia, who were confined for life in minute cages and had their sex glands scrapped every few days - the secretion is used as a fixative in perfumes.

Even though completely absorbed in watching the film, one's thoughts inevitably turned to Mr. David Whiting, Executive Director of B.W.C., without whose daring, devotion and dedication "What Price Beauty?" would not have made an appearance. Judging from the response to this Premier Show, it would seem that the film will have a tremendous impact on all who see it. Hardly was it over, when enquiries began : people wanting to borrow the film, screen it, buy copies of it. "What Price Beauty?" is a *must* for all who love animals and care for the world they live in. Its clear-cut story is devoid of sentiment, yet its message goes home to every heart - a message which one cannot forget or afford to be complacent about....

**Pilu Dady**  
*Hon. Secretary*



# POLYESTER SILKY BROCADE

by Nischit

SILK - nature's most beautiful luxury fibre that we steal .... When we see silk fabrics displayed in shop windows we cannot but help admire their beauty. Whilst admiring them, we are apt to overlook the fact that millions of silkworms have been killed for the purpose.

Silk had its origin in China more than 4000 years ago. For centuries the secret of the silk craft was guarded by the Chinese, but later the know-how spread to other parts of Asia.

Sericulture begins with the moth laying more than 300 eggs which within a week are hatched into tiny silkworms. These silkworms are kept in trays filled with fresh mulberry leaves which they eat voraciously day and night for five weeks. They then start spinning their cocoons. Once the cocoon spinning is over, the worm inside undergoes a period of hibernation. In the natural course it would develop into a chrysalis and later into a moth. The moth would then cut through the cocoon and fly away - thereby breaking up the silk filaments into small bits. If an unbroken silk filament is to be obtained, it is necessary to destroy the life inside before it develops into a moth. And so the cocoon with the chrysalis inside is immersed in boiling water or stifled with heat.

In order to prepare the yarn for commercial purposes the filaments from five to ten cocoons are twisted into a single thread. According to a rough estimate, approximately 1 gramme of woven silk fabric needs the fibres obtained from 15 cocoons. Thus to calculate the number of moths killed for making a particular garment — be it a saree, shirt, suit, a tie or even a scarf — all one has to do is to weigh it in grammes and multiply it by fifteen.

Years ago the only fabrics available were those made from cotton, silk and wool. Today we have a number of artificial fibres which give us many more varieties. These synthetic fibres have replaced pure silks to a great extent. However there are certain types of fabrics in which the synthetics have not yet been tried, or else the results have been unsatisfactory. Such a one is the Banarasi handloom brocade which is mainly used for sarees and stoles. After doing research for more than two and a half years, Miss Nalini Mehta, Executive Committee Member of BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY (India), has with the help of technicians of SASMIRA and weavers of Banaras, evolved a material which looks and feels very similar to silk. This "Ahimsak Brocade" is made of polyester.



Unlike other fabrics, polyester weaving has had to confront numerous obstacles. For instance, (1) The yarn has to be bought in bulk. (2) It has to undergo the heat setting processes. (3) The dyeing has to be done in the yarn stage and this again is possible only in bulk. (4) The weaver has to be experienced, skilled and enthusiastic, as polyester yarn is not as easy to handle as cotton or silk. (5) The loom has to be adjusted for the weaving of polyester. (6) Once woven and cleaned, the fabric has to be sent to Bombay for special heat setting, which again requires to be done in bulk.

Thus the production of Ahimsak Brocade requires not only coordination of work but substantial investment. (It can be made only if there is a sufficient demand). These difficulties have been surmounted through the dedicated efforts of Miss Nalini Mehta, and B. W. C. (India Branch) is happy to introduce this new material to its members.

A variety of Banarasi sarees are available in the market – all under different names. Some are called matka silk, moonga silk, georgette, chiffon, crepe, organza silk satin, tanchod, etc. Whilst researching on the Ahimsak Brocade in polyester, another equally good Ahimsak fabric has been evolved which looks like silk organza. This synthetic organza can be made in any colour and since silk yarn is more expensive, the synthetic organza brocade costs less. Moreover, it lasts longer than the silk organza.

Unfortunately the word 'synthetic' is associated with that which is cheap. This dissuades people from going in for artificial brocade and the sacrifice of the moths is dismissed as sentiment. BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY is taking the initiative to inform the public of the facts and thereby create a market for cruelty-free fabrics.

It is a vicious circle .... Unless there is sufficient demand the weavers will not be interested in weaving a new/different type of material. On the other hand, unless there is a sufficient choice, the customer will hesitate to buy. The ROOP-KALA management in Bombay have agreed to keep a special corner for the Ahimsak brocade provided there is a demand. We appeal to all B. W. C. Members to give the lead by buying cruelty-free synthetic brocade sarees.



# SACRIFICED FOR FASHION

by Clive Hollands

Invitingly, crocodile and alligator handbags, wallets, purses, shoes, boots, etc. look at windowshoppers. People are willing to pay high prices for these articles, but the road to such status symbols is paved with cruelty and suffering...

Expensive luxury items made of crocodile or alligator leather find their way into shops all over the world. The constant demand for these commodities being created by thoughtless or ignorant people, who will pay vast sums of money for them, neither realising nor caring about the extreme suffering involved.

At Sarangoon, Singapore, is one of the many crocodile "farms" in existence today, through which approximately 2,000 ill-fated creatures pass each year. Baby crocodiles from local and foreign supply are kept in specially constructed pens. When they reach the age of 3 or 4 years, they are killed and the skins are used to produce a variety of leather articles. There is a flourishing export trade in skins to France, Germany, Italy, the U.S.A. and a number of other countries, where local manufacturers convert these imported skins into the finished, desired article.

Talking "money" : one inch (approx. 2½ cms.) of untreated crocodile-skin is worth at present £2 and after the skin has passed through the various treatments, which will be outlined later, the same inch is worth about £3.

Money is behind the whole enterprise from start to finish, the only loser being the crocodile. The farm attracts tourists, who are charged for the privilege of watching the imprisoned crocs being fed, mainly on fish and chicken. For the benefit of the public, the chickens are tied to a rope attached to a pole and dangled over the heads of the poor humiliated creatures.

These victims-of-fashion meet a violent and premature end. A noose, used in the manner of a lasso, is fixed to a strong pole and thrown around the neck of the selected animal. Once caught, without any further ritual, the struggling reptile is hauled up in much the same way as an angler would land a fish. The latter, however, are put out of their misery very quickly, but crocodiles, with their superior strength and weight of several hundred pounds, can be without air for quite some time and fights can go on for close to half an hour before the creatures tire and strangle themselves into submission.



When the exhausted creature has at last succumbed, a helper enters the arena, armed with a large piece of sacking, resembling a bullfighter brandishing his cape. His task is to throw the material over the eyes of the victim, which invariably stops the animal from further struggling and its jaws can then be fastened whilst a few more people hold the crocodile to the ground.

Then with a long very sharp kind of dagger, the farmer goes for the animal, ramming the knife into the neck, trying to sever the spinal nerves. In order to obtain a high quality skin, the animal is quite often skinned alive. When confronted, the farmer brushes his act aside, explaining that the animal is unconscious and therefore does not feel pain.

Cuts are made down the full length of the hide to remove the skin in one piece, the whole being finally torn from the tail.

When the animal has been skinned and has subsequently died and the suffering is ended, the remains are all put to a use, bringing in extra profit for the farmer over and above that derived from the skins. Some of the meat will be kept by the farmer or sold to people who like it, for parts of crocodiles are considered to be a delicacy. If, however, there are no takers, the meat will go to the local market to be sold there. The head will be stuffed and mounted, to be bought by tourists. And then there are the intestines. These won't be wasted either. To add insult to injury, they are gathered up and thrown into the pens where future handbags are still alive and hungry. The crocodiles hastily and unknowingly devour what to them are tasty titbits.

The hides themselves go through a series of processes leading to the manufacture of the finished leather commodities. The hides are soaked in lime to remove the scales. The next step is the highly skilled operation of shaving the skins to get them down to a workable thickness. As Mr. Seng, the owner of the farm, put it: "The hide has to be thin enough to be worked. But it must not be so thin that the leather will crack or tear during the subsequent manufacturing process. It may take as many as ten years before a man really knows the job and can be given the best skins to handle."

The shaving completed, tanning begins, turning the skins into leather and preparing them for dyeing. Now the skin is polished with the aid of buffing fluids and machines.

Finally, the skins are either exported or sent to the farm's own craft room where they are manufactured into handbags, shoes, wallets, purses, cigarette-boxes, etc. to be sold in the country of origin or shops abroad.

There is beauty in products made of crocodile and alligator leather, but it is beauty bought at a price...



# YOU TOO CAN BE RICH

by Kanaka Rao

The beauty of wildlife in the forests and jungles was once the play-thing of kings and noblemen who massacred these beasts for building their collection to an astonishing treasure of ivory, skins and horns, heads of the animals and birds stuffed and hung on the walls. The results of their labours were so damaging, that they nearly left the earth half empty wiping out some of our rarest animal wealth. An amazing feat indeed they performed to-day leaves a wildlife lover wondering whether this is the way to enrich oneself.

We can be rich without the destruction of animal lives. We can alter our life when we go and live with our neighbours, the animals. We become rich by possessing the garden we own with the colours of palm trees, bougainvillea, roses all well groomed, so gracefully dancing with the wind. The birds add the colours and symmetry of their features, their songs that intermingle with the melody of the insects to form a delightful orchestra. Our thoughts hang like cobwebs in our mind with divided cellars that cannot supply us with the right answers. But who owns this land, not you and I alone, but the animals, the birds, the sky and the wind too. These are the delights expressed by our Creator, the right to grow and survive like most of us. We live here temporarily best by making friends with Nature. Thus we can get rich and enlarge our existence to a sense of unity of all earthy life.

The change of our attitude towards the ways of Nature can have happy endings that flush our mind with its deciduous beauty as we get trapped for a while in this strange universe. Our force to surrender our will power to cage or selfishly trap the bit of the universe that belongs to us will no longer tangle our thoughts in treating our most humble creatures scandalously. Think before you permanently damage any living things around you. What sort of contributions they make towards you that are serviceable and a curious coincidence you'll find to see they possess such a similarity of "human feelings" as you watch the daily drama of the birds and animals. The world could be yours, the sun, the wind and the rains, but you won't be able to cage them though you may have to surrender yourself, for their force of life is stronger than the force of your strength.

If you possess a mink coat or hat or a bit of mink on the cape or collar of your garments or leather skin handbags or shoes or suitcases that have been stripped away painfully from these once thriving beautiful creatures now at the brink of their extinction, wouldn't you pity them when you see how man's depredation over the last century had reduced the population of such harmless creatures like the alligators and the wild minks. You would find it hard to feel a great love for these creatures as you deck yourself with cosmetics made from these animals when their soft fur coats mean a big business on the international fashion scene for you. You should be embarrassed to wear the illegal items made out of these creatures' hides and the stores that sell them should be put to shame for helping the poachers in their "big business deal" and in venting their "tricky talent" for pacifying the women in buying these items.

( Continued on Page 12 )



# NEWSPICKS

*Translated from The Bombay Samachar*

## **India's Export Ban Will Save 20,000 Monkeys**

**London, 9th December '77 ( A F P )**

Mr. Jon Evans, President of the International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals, announced that the Government of India's ban on the export of monkeys will save the lives of 20,000 monkeys per year.

Mr. Evans and Lady Dowding, Founder-Chairman of Beauty Without Cruelty International, met the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Morarji Desai, during their recent visit to India. At Lady Dowding's special request Mr. Desai assured them the export of monkeys would cease directly the present agreement expires.

*Statesman*

## **Plan to Breed Mink**

**Moscow, 24th November '77**

India may attempt breeding fur-bearing mink with Soviet cooperation under a protocol signed here yesterday reports Samachar.

The protocol outlining a programme of agricultural cooperation for 1978 and 1979, visualised an expanded exchange of know-how in a variety of fields and coordinated training courses for Indian scientists in the Soviet Union.



## Q & A

Many of us are holding shares in shoe manufacturing firms. Have those concerns their own slaughter-house, or do they only manufacture shoes from synthetic material? If we are indirectly encouraging the slaughter of animals, then we may be party to that.

*Dr. R. L. Shah (Rajkot)*

Slaughter-houses usually belong to the local municipalities and thus no shoe manufacturer would have his own slaughter house. Most of the foot-wear manufacturers do make shoes and chappals from synthetic materials. These would be either moulded or stitched.

As for the use of leather foot-wear, the leather is the by-product of the slaughter. The more use of the animal, the more would be the demand, thereby increasing its price. The increase in turn would tempt the owners to sell off their animals and thus indirectly it would amount to encouraging slaughter. B. W. C., therefore, believes in use of synthetic materials even for foot-wear.

*Nischit*

Your questions will be answered by  
NISCHIT  
Beauty Without Cruelty  
( INDIA BRANCH )  
4 Prince of Wales' Drive  
Wanowrie  
Poona 411 001.

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Yes, you can certainly be rich, especially the women who are paying high prices for each fabulous fur coat by helping to conserve the wildlife, with a campaign to kill off this glamorous beauty - fashionable world of furs, skins, leather items and cosmetics made from these animals. The richness of your universe you possess rests mainly on the shoulders of the women all over the world, to some extent men to save God's creations from extinction.